

# IS IT A PHRASE OR A CLAUSE? #2

Phrases and clauses are the grammatical building blocks of sentences. A **clause** is a group of words containing both a subject and a predicate. A clause can be independent, meaning it can stand on its own as a complete sentence, or dependent, meaning it does not express a complete thought.



- **Before Mason left for basketball camp**, he packed his bag with lunch and a cold water bottle.  
*This dependent clause has a subject (Mason) and a predicate (left for basketball camp), but it isn't a complete thought.*
- Because basketball camp was a full-day program, **Mason brought his lunch with him**.  
*This independent clause has a subject (Mason) and a predicate (brought his lunch), and it could stand alone as a complete sentence.*

A **phrase** is a group of words that work together as a unit but without a subject, a predicate, or both.

- Ariana and Megan secured front row seats **for their entire group of friends**.  
*This phrase does not contain a subject or a predicate.*
- **The track team** has a roster with four incredible sprinters, one for each leg of the relay race.  
*This phrase contains a subject but not a predicate.*
- A sea of blue and white, the school's colors, **blanketed the stadium**.  
*This phrase contains a predicate but not a subject.*

## Part 1: Read each sentence and circle whether the highlighted words make up a phrase or a clause.

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <p>1. A smile slowly spread across Fatumata's face when she turned the corner and noticed the streamers and balloons attached to her locker.</p>      | <p>phrase / <b>clause</b></p> |
| <p>2. Fatumata's friends decorated her locker because she had won first place in Eastview Middle School's STEM competition.</p>                       | <p><b>phrase</b> / clause</p> |
| <p>3. Mr. Heath's debate team has given me the ability to think critically about world events, organize my thoughts, and communicate effectively.</p> | <p><b>phrase</b> / clause</p> |
| <p>4. Before joining the debate team in the fall, I didn't really like speaking in front of a crowd.</p>  | <p><b>phrase</b> / clause</p> |
| <p>5. The state fair offers over 800 food and beverage items, as well as over 400 shopping locations.</p>   | <p>phrase / <b>clause</b></p> |
| <p>6. Fair-goers, consuming an average of 500,000 pastries each year, particularly love the apple cinnamon donut drops.</p>                           | <p><b>phrase</b> / clause</p> |

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**Keep going! Read each sentence and circle whether the highlighted words make up a phrase or a clause.**

- 7. Over the stormy weekend, the Serrano family declared one technology-free day and instead competed in a series of absurd family contests. phrase / clause
  
- 8. The most entertaining competition required each player to recite their favorite movie quotes while others guessed the movie. phrase / clause
  
- 9. With a Friday deadline looming, Niall didn't get much sleep, as he stressed about what novel he would choose to read for his book trailer project. phrase / clause
  
- 10. After his friend recommended *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, by Brian Selznick, Niall was captivated by the touching story. phrase / clause
  
- 11. It was clear that Anisha and Billie, visitors to New York City for the first time, were hopelessly lost in the 42nd Street Grand Central subway station. phrase / clause
  
- 12. Putting the map back in her bag, Billie realized she needed to ask someone for assistance to find the Metro-North. phrase / clause

**Part 2: Write an original sentence using the phrase or clause provided. Answers will vary.**

- 1. "found underneath the bed"  
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\_\_\_\_\_
  
- 2. "you'll need a password"  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- 3. "for a good cause"  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- 4. "that we stayed at last summer"  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_